
Bliss Rapids Snail

Taylorconcha serpenticola

Gastropoda — Neotaenioglossa — Hydrobiidae

CONSERVATION STATUS / CLASSIFICATION

Rangewide: Critically imperiled (G1)
Statewide: Critically imperiled (S1)
ESA: Threatened
USFS: Region 1: No status; Region 4: No status
BLM: Threatened, Endangered, Proposed, and Candidate
(Type 1)
IDFG: Not classified

BASIS FOR INCLUSION

Threatened under the U.S. Endangered Species Act.

TAXONOMY

Taylorconcha, as currently arranged, is a monotypic genus. Richards et al. (2005) encountered populations of *Taylorconcha* in Hell's Canyon that are thought to represent an undescribed taxon rather than new populations of the Bliss Rapids snail.

DISTRIBUTION AND ABUNDANCE

This aquatic snail is endemic to the Snake River and associated springs. Historically, this species occurred from Indian Cove Bridge to Twin Falls (Hershler et al. 1994). Populations occur in the lower reaches of the Malad River and in the Snake River between the springs above Hagerman and King Hill (W. Clarke, Idaho Power Company, personal communication).

Recent surveys in Hells Canyon have revealed populations of snails referable to this genus, but these records may represent a taxon distinct from *T. serpenticola*. If these populations are thought to represent the Bliss Rapids snail, the distribution would extend into the lower reaches of the Snake River.

POPULATION TREND

No data are available to suggest population trend.

HABITAT AND ECOLOGY

The Bliss Rapids snail inhabits springs and spring-influenced river reaches. Occupied sites are in flowing water having coarse, stable substrates and excellent water quality. Water temperatures generally range from 15 to 16°C. This species is typically absent from areas with impoundments and major depth fluctuations, warm-water environments, whitewater, and sites predominant aquatic macrophytes (Hershler et al. 1994, U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service 1995).

ISSUES

Habitat loss arising from degraded water quality, water diversion, and hydroelectric dam operation is a pervasive threat to this species. Major changes to aquatic habitat in the Snake River system have favored an introduced competitor, the New Zealand mudsnail, which is a threat to this species (Hershler et al. 1994).

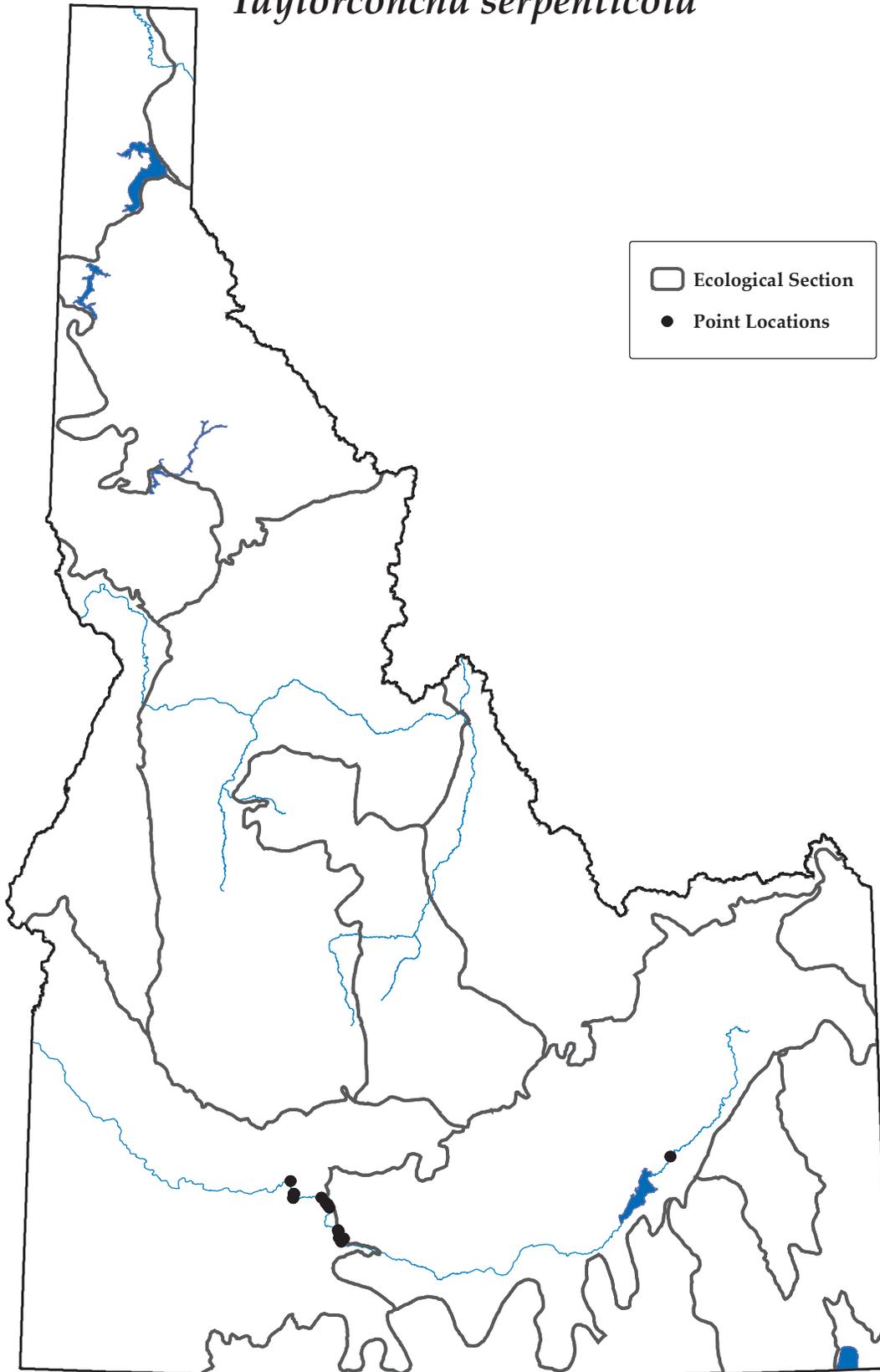
RECOMMENDED ACTIONS

A recovery plan has been developed for the federally listed snails occurring in the Snake River, which includes this species. Objectives of the plan include protection of the remaining free-flowing mainstem and cold-water spring habitats in occupied reaches of the Snake River, stabilization of water levels, improvement of water quality, augmentation of flows above Milner Dam, and control of exotic species (U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service 1995). U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has also implemented a monitoring program. Increasing, self-sustaining colonies at monitoring sites over a 5 year period are required for recovery.

Research to assess the taxonomic status of populations in Hells Canyon is needed. Continuation of monitoring and surveying of new areas is needed.

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2 August 2005
Point data are from Idaho Conservation Data Center,
Idaho Department of Fish and Game.

